

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 13 are amended, claims 3-6, 9 and 11-16 are withdrawn, and claim 2 is canceled. No new matter is added

I. Acknowledgement of the January 5, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on January 5, 2004. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

II. Support for Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claims 7, 8, 10 and 13 are amended for form. Thus, no new matter is added.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2, 7 and 8 include allowable subject matter. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and thus claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

IV. Rejoinder of Claims 3-6, 9 and 11

Claims 3-6, 9 and 11 depend from claim 1. Because claim 1 is condition for allowance, the Restriction Requirement must be withdrawn, and claims 3-6, 9 and 11, must be rejoined. See MPEP §§809.03 and 821.04.

V. Claim 10 Satisfies the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that recitation of "the engagement hole" in claim 10 lacks antecedent basis. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

VI. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,082,799 to Kennedy. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Kennedy, and in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

PTO-1449 with January 5, 2005 Information
Disclosure Statement

Date: December 12, 2005

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